

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1.     **(Currently Amended)**     An optical coupler system comprising:  
a housing;  
a sleeve situated in and attached to said housing, the sleeve having a changeable inside diameter; and  
a ferrule removably positioned within said sleeve, a relation between the sleeve and the ferrule being such that when the ferrule is positioned within the sleeve, the sleeve has a first inside diameter, and after the ferrule is removed from the sleeve, the sleeve has a second inside diameter that is less than the first inside diameter, wherein the sleeve has a rounded outside edge and a beveled inside edge, and wherein the sleeve is attached to the housing by a single strip of metallization covering an arc of about 45° or less of the circumference of the sleeve and running substantially the length of the sleeve.
2.     **(Canceled)**
3.     **(Previously Presented)**     The system of claim 1, wherein said sleeve has a lengthwise slit.
4. – 5. **(Canceled)**
6.     **(Previously Presented)**     The system of claim 1, wherein:  
said ferrule has an outside diameter larger than said inside diameter of said sleeve when said ferrule is not situated in said sleeve; and

the inside diameter of said sleeve is substantially the same as the outside diameter of said ferrule when said ferrule is situated in said sleeve.

7.     **(Original)**     The system of claim 6, wherein said ferrule holds an optical fiber.
8.     **((Previously Presented))**     The system of claim 7, wherein an end of said optical fiber in said ferrule is aligned with an optoelectronic element situated in said housing.
9.     **(Currently Amended)**     An optical coupling system comprising:  
a support structure; and  
a holding structure attached to said support structure, where said holding structure has a changeable inside diameter and is configured to removably receive an optical medium holder having an outside diameter, the inside diameter being substantially the same as the outside diameter when the optical medium holder is received in the holding structure, and the inside diameter being less than the outside diameter after the optical medium holder is removed from the holding structure, wherein the edge of the inside diameter is a beveled edge, and wherein the holding structure is attached to the support structure by a single strip of metallization covering an arc of about 45° or less of the circumference of the holding structure and running substantially the length of the holding structure.
10.    **(Previously Presented)**     The system of claim 9, wherein said holding structure comprises a sheet of material configured to at least partially enclose a received optical medium holder.
11.    **(Previously Presented)**     The system of claim 10, wherein said sheet of material is configured to apply pressure at a plurality of points of contact between said sheet of material and a received optical medium holder.

12. **(Original)** The system of claim 11, further comprising an optoelectronic element holder attached to said support structure.

13. – 14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 10, wherein said sheet of material is a sleeve having a slit.

16. – 17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 12, further comprising an optical transmitter held by said optoelectronic element holder.

19. – 39. **(Canceled)**

40. **(Canceled)**

41. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 15, wherein said sleeve has a rounded outside edge and the beveled edge is an inside edge of the sleeve.

42. **(Canceled)**

43. **(Currently Amended)** An optical coupler system comprising:

a housing;

a ferrule; and

means for holding the ferrule, where the means for holding the ferrule removably retains the ferrule in position relative to a portion of the housing by way of spring tension, wherein the means for holding a ferrule has a rounded outside edge and a beveled inside edge, and wherein the means for holding the ferrule is attached to the housing by a single strip of metallization covering an arc of about 45° or less of the

circumference of the means for holding the ferrule and running substantially the length of the means for holding the ferrule.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, further comprising:

an optical fiber held by the ferrule; and

an optoelectronic device positioned in the housing and configured for communication with the optical fiber.

45. **(Previously Presented)** The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the optical fiber is a single mode fiber.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the optoelectronic device is one of: an optical transmitter; or, an optical receiver.

47. **(Previously Presented)** The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the means for holding the ferrule exerts substantially no spring tension when not holding the ferrule.

48. **(Previously Presented)** The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the means for holding the ferrule exerts a pressure of contact around at least a portion of the ferrule.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The optical coupler system as recited in claim 44, wherein the means for holding the ferrule maintains a desired alignment of the optical fiber with the optoelectronic device.

50. **(Previously Presented)** The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the means for holding the ferrule substantially prevents movement of the ferrule in the "x" and "y" directions.

51. **(Previously Presented)** The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the means for holding the ferrule comprises a sleeve attached to the housing and defining a longitudinal slit.